

April 15, 1994

LB 961, 988A, 988

here in Lincoln. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. LB 988A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, Senator Pedersen would move to return 988 (sic) to Select File for specific amendment. Senator, I have AM4589. (See page 2122 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President (sic), members of the Legislature, every morning when I get up, I have a little book that I read out of. It is a little discipline I have had for quite a few years, and it helps me, and at the end of it is a little prayer that I want to start with. Just by sharing, just to share a prayer with you, not to have you pray, but it had a message in it for me today. It says, I pray that I may not argue or contend but merely speak calmly what I believe to be true. I pray that I may keep myself in that state of calmness. The last couple of days I have been very troubled by the Governor not signing onto the probation officers salary raise. LB 988 is a good bill, in my mind, and I know it is in quite a few of your mind. I have got some amendments that I put on that bill that you people accepted. I think it is a wonderful bill, but if I had the expertise, and the know-how to kill that bill, I would kill it today, and I would hold on till we were here till twelve o'clock tonight because I believe we are putting the cart before the horse, the old thing about putting the cart before the horse. LB 988 has in it a secure detention facility for adolescents who have committed serious crimes, and we are going to have more adolescents going to that program if we don't have a good probation department. So my amendment, I've got four of them up there, some others that are ready to go, would basically double the money that is going to be spent on LB 988 so we will have room for more places to put these people, if we don't have a good probation department. With that, I give the rest of my time to Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I agree with Senator Pedersen's position. We have talked a lot this session about crime and fighting crime, and other aspects of crime in this society. Because of an arrangement that has been worked out on LB 961, money was laid aside from the cigarette tax to build a secure facility for juvenile offenders.